



A P R O C L A M A T I O N

Obliging Heritors and Masters, for their Tennants and Servants.



H A R L E S, by the Grace of GOD, King of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, To Our Lyon King at Arms, and his Brethren Heralds, Macers, Pursuivants, Messengers at Arms, Our Sheriffs in that part conjunctly and severally, specially constitut, Greeting: Forasmuch, as the keeping and being present at Conventicles in Houses, or in the Fields, are most unwarrantable and disorderly practices, expressly prohibited and discharged by several Laws and Acts of Parliament; and specially, by the Fifth Act of the Second Session of Our Second Parliament, under certain great pains and penalties: Notwithstanding whereof, many persons continue so disloyal and disobedient, as to frequent these unlawful and seditious Conventicles and Meetings, to the great scandal of the reformed Religion professed within this Kingdom, and great reproach and contempt of Our Authority & Laws, and disturbance of the publick peace; And being the due observance of the foresaid Act of Parliament is of great import and consequence (Field-conventicles being declared by the Law to be the Rendezvous of Rebellion, and House-Conventicles the Seminaries of separation, And both of them tending to the subversion of all Peace and Order in the Church;) And that it might prove an effectual means for suppressing these disorders, if Heritors, Masters of Families, and Magistrats of Burghs Royal would employ that Interest, Power, and Authority, which they have over their Tennants, Servants and Inhabitants, in procuring their obedience to the Law. We therefore, with advice of the Lords of Our Privy Council, do hereby require and command all Masters of Families, that they cause their Domestick Servants, Chamberlains, Griefes, and others entertained by them, give obedience to the foresaid Fifth Act of the Second Session of Our Second Parliament, in abstaining from all Conventicles, either in Houses, or in Fields, and that they retain none in their service, but such for whom they will be answerable; And in case of their disobedience, that they remove them out of their service. As also, We do hereby require and command all Heritors, Land-lords, and Life-renters in the Countrey, to require their Rentallers and Tennants, as well these who have tacks yet standing unexpired, as moveable Tennants, to subscribe the Bond hereto subjoynd. And (in case there be necessity) the saids Heritors, and Life-renters are hereby warranted to raise Letters under the Signet of Our Privy Council, to charge their Rentallers and Tennants, whose Rentalls and Tacks are not expired, to give the said Bond upon a charge of six dayes, and in case of disobedience, to denounce them to Our Horn, and registrar the same. For which end, warrant is granted to direct Letters in their name against all and sundry their Tennants and Rentallers. And We, with advice, foresaid do declare, that We will be careful, that the Escheats falling to Us by the saids Hornings, shal be gifted and bestowed upon the Land-lords and Setters of these Tacks and Rentals, in so far as may be extended thereto; Recommending hereby to the Lords Commissioners of Our Thesaurary, or to Our Thesaurer Principal, or Thesaurer Deput (for the time being) and others of Our Exchequer to grant the same accordingly. And in case the Tennants be removable, and refuse to give obedience, that they warn and pursue them to remove and obtain Decrees of ejection against them: And that no Heritor, Land-lord, or Life-renter let their Lands hereafter to any person, by word or writ, but to such as they will be answerable for, as said is: And that they take surety from them by provisions to be insert in their Tacks, or otherwise by bonds apart, (in case there be no writ) that the saids Tack-men, Rentallers and others, their Hynds, Cottars, and Servants, who shal live under them upon the saids Lands, shal give obedience in manner foresaid; otherwise, that their Tacks, Rentals, and their whole interest, right and possession shal be void and expire, *ipso facto*, as if they had never been granted; And that without any Declarator or further Process, and then as now, and now as then, That they shal renounce all right that they shal have thereto, and shal remove themselves without any warning, or in case of failie, the Land-lords and others are to charge and denounce them in manner foresaid. And in regard, by the foresaid Act of Parliament against Conventicles, Magistrats of Burghs Royal, are declared lyable for every Conventicle to be kept within their Burghs, to such Fynes as Our Council shal think fit to impose; Therefore, the saids Magistrats of Burghs Royal, are hereby required to take special care and notice, and to be answerable, that their Burgeses and Inhabitants be obedient to the foresaid Act of Parliament; And that they cause charge such of them as they shal think fit, and are suspected, to give bond, as said is, for the Magistrats own relief, in case they contraven: And if they failie, to denounce them in manner foresaid. And it is hereby declared, that all Masters of Families, Land-lords, Heritors and Magistrats of Burghs, who shal not give punctual obedience, in manner above written, that they shal be lyable in the same pains and penalties due to the contraveners; but prejudice alwayes of proceeding against the contraveners themselves, and inflicting upon them the pains contained in the said Act of Parliament: And it is likewise hereby declared, that if any Cottars or Servants, for whom Tennants or Rentallers shal be bound, shal be found guilty of transgressing the foresaid Act of Parliament, against Conventicles, and that thereupon the Tennants shal be found lyable upon the bonds to be given by them, that they shal have their relief from the contraveners, for whom they are bound. And to the effect these presents may be known by all Persons concerned, Our Will is, and We charge you straitly, and commands, that incontinent these Our Letters seen, ye passe to the Mercat-Crosse of Edinburgh, and other places needfull, and thereat with all due Solemnities, in Our name and Authority, by open Proclamation, make publication hereof: And for the better execution of these presents, require the severall Sheriffs, and their Deputs, with all possible speed, to cause read, and publish the same upon a Sabbath-day, at the severall Paroch Kirks, which ly locally within the bounds of the Sheriffdom, albeit any of these Parochs do belong to other Jurisdiccions; intimating to the Heritors, that they cause their Tennants subscribe the saids bonds; and report them to the respective Sheriffs, or their Deputs, who are hereby ordered to return to Our Council an accompt of their diligence, with the bonds reported to them by the Heritors, within the space of six weeks, betwixt and the first thursday of September next: And ordains these presents to be Printed, that none pretend ignorance, according to justice, as ye will answer to us thereupon. The which to do, We commit to you conjunctly and severally Our full power, by these Our letters, delivering them by you duely execute, and indorsat again to the bearer.

Given under Our Signet at Edinburgh, the Eighteenth day of June, one thousand six hundred and seventy four years, and of Our reign the twentieth six year.

Per Aluum Dominorum Secreti Concilii.

Al. Gibson, Cl. S^c Concilii.

Follows the Tenor of the Bond.

I servants, shall not keep, or be present at any Conventicles, either in Houses, or in the Fields, as the same are defined by the fifth Act of the second Session of His Majesties second Parliament, under the pains therein contained: Being for ilk House-conventicle, 25. pounds Scots for each Tennant labouring land, twelve pounds for each Cottar, And for each Servant-man a fourth part of his years fee: And the Husband the half of these fynes, for such of their Wives or Children, as shall be as any House-conventicle; And the double of the respective fynes for each of the saids Persons that shal be at any Field-conventicles. And for the more security, I am content, and consents these presents be insert and registrate in the Books of Privy Council, Books of Council and Session, or other Judges Books competent; that Letters and Executorialis may passe thereupon, in form as effairs, and consents my Procurators, &c.

God save the King.

